

22 Sep 1996

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Reform Party running mate, Pat Choate. "We did everything we

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Cornfield is simply 'amazing'

By ALEXANDER STOCKS

The Daily Herald

AMERICAN FORK — A local cornfield is attracting all sorts of residents eager to solve The Maze.

Intricate pathways cut into the field of maize lead to twists, turns and dead-ends galore, with only one route taking a participant all the way through to the finish.

Some visitors have brought along aerial photographs of The Maze with the correct route penciled in, but they still get lost and confused when they're actually among the 7-foot tall corn, said Brett Herbst who with former college roommate Jim Martin, created the maze.

Herbst, who manages an LDS church farm and is a recent graduate of Brigham Young University's agriculture business program, said he first considered the idea of a cornfield maze after reading in a farming magazine about a similar cornfield conversion in Shippensburg, Pa. The Amazing Maize Maze attracted over 24,000 visitors in two weekends and was cited in the Guinness Book of Records as being the world's largest maze, having 172,000 square feet and 2.03 miles of paths.

Herbst remembers thinking



Daily Herald Photo/John Blodgett



MAZE:

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customary to form denser walls, he added.

The maize-blazers used a weed eater with a metal blade attached to cut out the corridors in the 150,000-square-foot puzzle and relied heavily on Martin's mathematics background, Herbst said.

And now, as the fall season brings forth its harvest, thousands are coming to take on the challenge of finding their way out of what sometimes seems an endless sea of maize.

On Friday evening by around 9:30 p.m., more than 500 visitors had gone through The Maze, Herbst reported. Most find their way to the end in about an hour, he said. But some get lost in the web of switch-backs, sharp curves and

dead-ends and spend as long as several hours wandering around.

The lucky adventurer anticipating all turns correctly, something yet to happen, could walk through the labyrinth in 15 minutes and only travel three-quarters of a mile, Herbst said.

At night, the journey is even more surreal, with only the moon, stars and a few landmarks visible for orientation. One begins to take notice of the small red lights on a distant radio tower and the intermittent rattling and screeching of a nearby train adds to the chill of the night.

Buddy and Kori Scott and Emily Bell, all of Provo, said they figured out the path to freedom in about a half hour. All three described the maze as fun, challenging and a new experience.

Kori Scott said she gained a new understanding of what a mouse possibly experiences when left to find its way through an

experimental maze.

Herbst said the current plan is to stay open Thursday-Monday through October 19, but "it depends on the weather. Corn is a warm season grain."

Providing the weather holds and the maze is not destroyed by visitors trying to plow through dead-ends, the attraction will remain at least a few additional weeks on the Utah County entertainment list at \$5 per adult and \$3 per child with \$1 discounts on each admission for families and groups of six or more.

The owners estimate it will take approximately 1,600 customers to break even on their business venture. They plan to sell the remaining corn as cattle feed at the end of October.

The Maze is located just off Interstate 15. Take Exit 279 and travel west on 1100 South. Follow the signs.

IRAN:

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Iran has bought since November 1992. Each sub can carry 18 torpedoes and can be used to lay mines

the only Gulf state that has such vessels.

Pentagon planners and some other analysts see the goal of Iran's naval buildup as controlling the Strait of Hormuz, through which all Persian Gulf oil used by the United States and its allies

Iranian scenarios have focused on closing the Strait of Hormuz, sabotaging ports and storming oil platforms and coastal targets."

The senior defense official added that Iran's Adm. Ali Shamkhani, commander of all its

TOP: Jim Martin, creator of The Maze, inside the idea for The Maze after reading about a similar venture in Shippensburg, Pa. Their creation is pic-

tured in the aerial photo above.

AP Photo



ries about some of Utah's more colorful, ne'er-do-wells and notable figures — Gregerson isn't making any promises.

"I'm just tickled this is selling," he says.

"Utah Roadside History" can be found at most bookstores in Utah, or it can be ordered by calling Griffin Associates at 764-9743.

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More seeds were planted than is days provide for taller corn. plant, he said, because the longer began to grow." Herbst the com. Slowly, "the maze local farmer and were planning leased the 3-acre field from a June the two entrepreneurs had in, a computer science student He said he approached Mar- thing different to do." "Some- was some here in Provo ... Some- in the University of Utah, and by Gregerson isn't making any promises.